

FINAL

THIRD TAXING DISTRICT
of the City of Norwalk
Commission Meeting
April 16, 2018

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners: Debora Goldstein (Acting Chair);
Pamela Parkington; Treasurer: Johnnie Mae Weldon

STAFF: Kevin Barber, General Manager; Ron Scofield, Assistant General
Manager

OTHERS: Andrew Strauss (Norwalk Tree Alliance)
Sarah Mills and Becky Riddell (Marvin PTA)
Steve Bartush (Shellfish Commission)
Peter Johnson (CMEEC Ratepayer Representative)

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Goldstein called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public was in attendance to comment.

NORWALK TREE ALLIANCE DONATION REQUEST

Mr. Andrew Strauss, President of the Norwalk Tree Alliance, gave a brief report to the Commission on how the funds that were granted for FY17-18 were spent. A tree lottery was held during the month of March 2018. Over 50 entries were received. From those entries, twelve residents were chosen and will receive a tree for their front yard, which will be purchased and planted by a professional landscaper within the next two weeks.

The Norwalk Tree Alliance has made a donation request for FY18-19 in the amount of \$2,500. If the request is approved, it is their hope that they will be able to continue this program and consider the other residents that were not able to receive a tree this year.

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**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE NORWALK TREE ALLIANCE DONATION REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500 TO BE FUNDED OUT OF OTHER DISTRICT SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT BUDGET AND WILL BE AWARDED AFTER JULY 1, 2018, AFTER A PRESENTATION OF A PLAN FOR THE TREES.**

**** COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MARVIN PTA DONATION REQUEST

Ms. Sarah Mills of the Marvin PTA reviewed the current programs that they are looking to be funded through a donation request from TTD. She explained to the Commission that Marvin Elementary School is a Title One school, which means that 50% or more of their students are at or lower than poverty level.

The donation request is in the amount of \$6,500. The programs would benefit all the children at the school and are in line with the requirements for the funding (electricity and conservation).

**** COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON MOVED TO ACCEPT THE APPLICATION OF DISTRICT FUNDS FOR MARVIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,500 AND WILL BE AWARDED AFTER JULY 1, 2018.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN SECONDED.**

Mr. Scofield reminded the Commission that there was only \$8,000 in the upcoming District Budget for Other District Services and by granting both the requests from the Norwalk Tree Alliance and the Marvin PTA, would go over budget.

**** COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON AMENDED THE MOTION OF APPLICATION FOR DISTRICT FUNDS TO MARVIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND HAVE \$5,500 BE FUNDED OUT OF OTHER DISTRICT SERVICES AND \$1,000 FROM CONTINGENCY.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 29, 2018 Special Joint Meeting

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO TABLE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 29, 2018 SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE TTD, SHELLFISH COMMISSION AND HARBOR COMMISSION TO MAY 7, 2018 ON THE BASIS THAT WE DO NOT HAVE A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO GET A MAJORITY VOTE.**

**** COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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April 9, 2018 Special Meeting

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO TABLE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2018 SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING TO MAY 7, 2018.**

**** COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PERSON-TO-PERSON REPORT

Mr. Scofield said he met with Mary Sullivan from Person-to-Person in February to review the program for the past year. The joint program has just completed year 4 and the results were very successful.

Mr. Scofield explained how the program works. Clients are chosen on the basis of need and are recommended to Person-to-Person by Third Taxing District. The caseworker assigned reviews the household budgets with the applicants and explores the needs and goals of the client and family. Upon completion of the assessment process, the families sign a contract agreeing to pay an amount each month for six months that is close to their average electric bill. Once completed successfully, they receive a credit on their TTD account equal to the 6-month total.

Commissioner Parkington asked what the total amount is that Third Taxing District funds for this program. Mr. Scofield replied that it was \$20,000 for this past year and appears in the Operating Budget. The amount has not yet been determined for the upcoming budget, but it is his hope that the Commission will approve it.

Commissioner Goldstein suggested that this might be a type of program TTD could fund for the Library. They could have Person-to-Person come and assist or give advice to residents on their personal finances.

LIBRARY ROOF BIDS

Mr. Barber stated that at the request of the Commission, staff secured proposals for putting a new roof on the East Norwalk Library. TTD engaged Gill & Gill Architects to prepare the bid documents in order that each bidder would be bidding on exactly the same specs. Four roofers requested the RFP, but only two placed bids – Rick’s Main Roofing Ltd. and Milan Expert Renovation LLC.

Rick’s Main Roofing was the lower of the two bids in the total amount of \$31,230, which includes the bid price, add alternate 1 (ogee gutters and 3”x4” leaders which is not expected to be required), add alternate 2 (2” round perforated soffit vents) and a contingency (possible replacement of sheathing).

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Staff consulted with Gill & Gill on the two bids, and it is their recommendation, as well as TTD's, to award the roof replacement project to Rick's Main Roofing Ltd. in the amount of \$31,230.00 and broken down as follows:

Bid Price	\$21,600.00
Alternate 1	0.00 (Not expected to be required)
Alternate 2	1,530.00
Contingency	<u>8,100.00</u> (Possible replacement of sheathing)
	\$31,230.00

Mr. Barber explained that they are requesting the full contingency in the bid price, in order to avoid having to come back to the Commission and request additional funds should they be needed for the sheathing.

Commissioner Goldstein stated her belief is that Commissioner Brown (who is not in attendance at this meeting) would not be in support of a project cost of this size with only two bids. Commissioner Goldstein was concerned whether or not the project was bid out properly. Mr. Barber assured her that it was properly notified and appeared in The Hour two days during the month of April under the Legal Notices/Classifieds. There was interest from four roofers, but unfortunately only two placed bids.

**** COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON MOVED TO ACCEPT GILL & GILL'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE EAST NORWALK LIBRARY ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT, GRANTING IT TO RICK'S MAIN ROOFING LTD. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$31,230 AS BROKEN DOWN BY BID PRICE OF \$21,600, ALTERNATE 2, WHICH IS VENTING, OF \$1,530 AND A CONTINGENCY FOR POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT OF THE ENTIRE ROOF SHEATHING OF \$8,100, TOTAL BID ACCEPTANCE OF \$31,230.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN SECONDED.**

Commissioner Goldstein added a friendly amendment.

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN AMENDED THE MOTION TO CLARIFY THAT THE CONTINGENCY IS AVAILABLE IF AND ONLY IF STAFF IS PROVIDED PROPER DOCUMENTATION OF THE NEED AND APPROVED.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN SECONDED THE MOTION AS AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSSION OF POWER COST ADJUSTMENT (PCA)

Mr. Barber recapped the meeting of April 9, 2018 where he presented the Rate Stabilization Fund, how it works and setting a target balance. He mentioned that the second piece would be the PCA (Power Cost Adjustment).

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What is a Power Cost Adjustment? The PCA is a mechanism that is used to allow TTD to recover the full cost of purchased power when the actual cost of power is greater than the base fuel cost rate. The base fuel cost is another term used for generation.

The current base fuel cost is \$0.0958/kWh with a current PCA rate of \$0.0230/kWh. The total generation is \$0.1188/kWh. The base fuel cost was developed during a rate study conducted in 2014. At that time an initial PCA was set at \$0.01/kWh. The intent of the PCA is to recover costs. A PCA adjustment is not considered a rate change. It is a mechanism to cover generation when it increases in price.

The PCA is calculated by comparing the Base Fuel Cost to the Purchased Power Costs (CMEEC monthly bill). TTD has been utilizing a spreadsheet developed by the rate consultant to calculate the PCA on a monthly basis. The PCA is calculated by comparing the six month running average of the cost of power to the base fuel cost. The difference is the Calculated PCA.

In addition, the spreadsheet calculates if TTD is in an over or under collection state on an ongoing basis. The intended use of this information is to determine if and when an adjustment to the PCA is warranted.

After Mr. Barber conducted an in-depth analysis of the PCA spreadsheet, three issues surfaced.

- Grand Total Purchase Power Costs – The billed cost of power was used instead of the actual cost of power and the total cost used also included CyrusOne charges.
- Total Purchased Power kWh Units – CyrusOne usage was included.
- Total System Retail Sales – CyrusOne usage was included.

These three issues caused a “skewed” result for the “Calculated PCA” and the “Difference of Collection vs. Expense” in the spreadsheet.

CyrusOne has a special contract with TTD and CMEEC to purchase their electricity needs directly from the market and they are not charged a PCA as part of this special contract. Because they are not charged a PCA, their data (dollars and usage) should not be included in the calculations.

Previously, the spreadsheet indicated an over collection of \$2,087,340 as of January 2018. In the revised spreadsheet, using the correct data (backing out CyrusOne data), the over collection is \$5,095,340 as of January 2018. Where did these funds go? They were put into the Rate Stabilization Fund which funded major capital projects, i.e., Fitch Street Substation and SCADA.

Mr. Barber also suggested that this might be a good time to conduct another rate study or have a “tune-up” to the one conducted in 2014.

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The PCA will need to be adjusted, but Mr. Barber is suggesting that the Commission wait on this until the FY2018-19 operating and 5-year capital budgets are approved in June. At that time, Mr. Barber will bring recommendations for the PCA to the Commission for their approval.

DISCUSSION: FOLLOW-UP TO SHELLFISH/HARBOR/TTD MEETING
RE: EVERSOURCE UNDERGROUNDING

Commissioner Goldstein noted that Steve Bartush from the Shellfish Commission has joined the meeting and that the TTD's CMEEC Ratepayer Representative, Peter Johnson, is also the Chairman for the Shellfish Commission. Commissioner Goldstein had asked Chairman Brown to have this discussion added to this meeting because of the timelines involved.

Commissioner Goldstein continued that the idea would have been to decide if the TTD Commission is going to take a position in support of the other agencies. This would probably be one or more support letters to the agencies involved and how closely TTD's recommendations would align with the other two Commissions or whether TTD's Commission would want to do something that is outside of their purview due to jurisdictions. TTD would have the ability to take this on as the Commission is a legislative body and has a broad interest in the representation for the ratepayers.

Commissioner Goldstein provided as much back-up information as was available at the time from the Harbor Management Commission, but was not able to secure anything from the Shellfish Commission in time for the Commission packet. Mr. Bartush then read, for the record, the letter from the Shellfish Commission. (Please see Attachment 1 for the letter.)

Discussion took place about the project, the drilling, and any effects it would have. If the TTD Commissions wrote a letter in support of the Shellfish and Harbor Management Commissions, as the legislative and representative body of the Third Taxing District, you could go further and state that while TTD does not have the expertise, TTD could hire the expertise to make a recommendation. The TTD Commission strongly believes other alternatives should be explored.

The current route for the undergrounding would begin at Police Headquarters parking lot, down Elizabeth Street, across Water Street and then across the harbor to the northeast through the northern end of the docks, and go up Fort Point Street. Currently, there are no alternative routes for the undergrounding.

Commissioner Goldstein made reference to the FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) regulations, Section 380.15 – Siting and Maintenance Requirements. Based on the FERC's regulations, Commission Goldstein thought that it could be beneficial for TTD's Commission to suggest that Eversource not go through a city park and take care with regard to the shellfish beds in the harbor. Alternative routes should be explored.

Commissioner Goldstein asked Mr. Bartush to talk about the Submarine communications cable. Mr. Bartush explained that the temporary communications cable is a cable that will be nearly in

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the footprint of the current walk bridge. It crosses inside the fendering of the bridge. The current proposal is to clam shell dredge to a depth of seven feet in order to lay these lines with the spoils to be transported and dewatered at Devine Bros. Apparently from Mr. Bartush's communication with the DOT, it will be filtered and treated if necessary which is not clear in their application or the permit based on their testing. As an aside, the Shellfish and Harbor Management Commissions have formally asked the DOT if their representatives (scientists between the two Commissions) could get together with them. They did not respond "no."

Commissioner Goldstein said that potentially what the Commission could be doing is writing four to five support letters and whether or not TTD wants to hire an engineer to give expertise on the safety issues.

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED WHEREAS THE COMMISSION OF THE THIRD TAXING DISTRICT HAS REVIEWED VARIOUS MATERIALS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED UNDERGROUNDING OF EVERSOURCE HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES UNDERNEATH THE HARBOR THROUGH VISITORS' DOCKS AND BENEATH VETERAN'S PARK, WE SO DESIRE TO ISSUE ONE OR MORE LETTERS SUPPORTING THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION AND NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE VARIOUS AGENCIES THAT WILL BE CONSIDERING THIS APPLICATION EVENTUALLY TO GO BEFORE THE CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL AND ARE DESIROUS OF ISSUING SUCH LETTERS OF SUPPORT WITH ALL DUE HASTE.**

**** COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED WHEREAS THE COMMISSION OF THE THIRD TAXING DISTRICT HAS REVIEWED VARIOUS MATERIALS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED UNDERGROUNDING OF EVERSOURCE HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES UNDERNEATH THE HARBOR THROUGH VISITORS' DOCKS AND BENEATH VETERAN'S PARK, THE COMMISSION DESIRES TO CONSULT WITH, AND IF NECESSARY, ISSUE A POSITION LETTER WITH REFERENCE TO THE RELEVANT FERC (FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION) REGULATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION.**

**** COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED WHEREAS THE COMMISSION OF THE THIRD TAXING DISTRICT HAS REVIEWED VARIOUS MATERIALS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED UNDERGROUNDING OF EVERSOURCE HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES UNDERNEATH THE HARBOR THROUGH VISITORS' DOCKS AND BENEATH VETERAN'S PARK, THE**

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COMMISSION HAS DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE OF BENEFIT TO THE RATEPAYERS OF THE THIRD TAXING DISTRICT TO ISSUE A MUNICIPAL LETTER IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARMY CORPS ENGINEER PERMIT THAT REQUIRES SUCH A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE MUNICIPALITY THAT SUPPORTS THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION AND NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION'S POSITION THAT AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE BE EXPLORED.

**** COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED WHEREAS THE COMMISSION OF THE THIRD TAXING DISTRICT HAS REVIEWED VARIOUS MATERIALS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED UNDERGROUNDING OF EVERSOURCE HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES UNDERNEATH THE HARBOR THROUGH VISITORS' DOCKS AND BENEATH VETERAN'S PARK, THE SUBMARINE CABLE REFERENCED IN THE MINUTES OF MARCH 29, 2018 JOINT COMMISSION MEETING AMONGST THE THIRD TAXING DISTRICT, SHELLFISH COMMISSION AND NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION, THE THIRD TAXING DISTRICT COMMISSION WOULD LIKE TO ISSUE A LETTER OF SUPPORT OF THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS WITH THE PROJECT.**

**** COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED WHEREAS THE COMMISSION OF THE THIRD TAXING DISTRICT HAS REVIEWED VARIOUS MATERIALS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED UNDERGROUNDING OF EVERSOURCE HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES UNDERNEATH THE HARBOR THROUGH VISITORS' DOCKS AND BENEATH VETERAN'S PARK, THE THIRD TAXING DISTRICT COMMISSION WISHES TO SECURE AN EXPERT TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS WITH REGARD TO THE POSSIBLE CONSIDERATIONS OF ELECTRIC SAFETY IN CONNECTION WITH THE EVERSOURCE UNDERGROUNDING PROJECT, WE WOULD LIKE TO DIRECT STAFF TO HIRE A CONSULTING ENGINEER TO PROVIDE US WITH AN ANALYSIS OF THE DOCK DESIGN AND THE PROPOSED EVERSOURCE PROJECT AND ADVISE THE COMMISSION OF ANY SAFETY ISSUES OF WHICH THEY SHOULD BE AWARE.**

**** COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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ADJOURN

- ** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Tenney
Executive Assistant
Third Taxing District